

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 4749

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EEC, GW, US, IT

SUBJECT: GOI VIEWS ON APRIL 1-2 EC COUNCIL MEETING AND FOREIGN
MINISTER MORO VISIT TO BONN

REF: BONN 5323; EC BRUSSELS 1982

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: MFA SECRETARY GENERAL GAJA INFORMED US THAT
FONMIN MORO'S MARCH 29 TALKS IN BONN FOCUSED UPON SEEKING WAY
FOR EC MEMBERS TO APPEAR ACCOMMODATING TO UK WHILE INSISTING THAT
ANY PROBLEMS RAISED BY UK BE HANDLED THROUGH EXISTING EC MACHINERY.
ITALIANS HOPE THAT UK HAS CLEARLY GRASPED THIS LAST CONDITION.
GAJA STATED THAT BULK OF EC COUNCIL DISSUSSIONS LUXEMBOURG RE-
VOLVED AROUND SUBJECT OF "CONSULTATION." ALL AGREED ON MERITS
FRANCE AND OTHER EC MEMBER VIEWS ON THE SUBJECT. GOI FAVORS
TIMELY INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS AT LOWEST EFFECTIVE LEVEL. GAJA
THOUGHT THAT RECENT EVENTS, INCLUDING DEATH OF POMPIDOU, WILL
CAUSE A CONSIDERABLE SLOWDOWN IN EUROPEAN COMMUNITY DECISION-
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MAKING, ALTHOUGH SOME PRESSING ISSUES SUCH AS ENERGY WILL HAVE

TO BE DEALT WITH. END SUMMARY.

2. MFA SECRETARY GENERAL GAJA BRIEFED US APRIL 4 ON LUXEMBOURG EC COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING AND FONMIN MORO'S MARCH 29 BONN CONSULTATIONS. BONN DISCUSSIONS, ACCORDING TO GAJA, WERE DEVOTED ESPECIALLY TO QUESTION OF EC STRATEGY TO BE DEVELOPED IN HANDLING UK DEMANDS UPON COMMUNITY. GERMANS THOUGHT THAT LABOR COULD WAIT UNTIL POSSIBLY OCTOBER AT WHICH TIME ELECTIONS LIKELY TO BE HELD AND UK POLICY WOULD THEN HOPEFULLY BECOME CLEARER. (OCTOBER IS

LATEST THAT WILSON COULD CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE SITUATION HE INHERITED FROM THE TORIES). IN MEANTIME, EC WOULD BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS MATTERS WITH THE UK PROVIDED THEY ARE HANDLED THROUGH EXISTING EC MACHINERY AND IN NO RPT NO CASE OUTSIDE COMMUNITY FRAMEWORK. THE GERMANS AND ITALIANS WERE FIRMLY COMMITTED TO THIS LAST POINT. GAJA SAID UK MUST WITHER BE IN OR OUT OF THE COMMUNITY -- NOT HALF WAY IN OR OUT.

3. GAJA THEN TURNED TO LUXEMBOURG MEETING. HE COMMENTED THAT CALLAGHAN IS A NEW FOREIGN MINISTER AND ONE MUST MAKE ALLOWANCES FOR HIS PRESENTATION WHICH THE ITALIANS THOUGHT RATHER REMARKABLE. THEY WERE AMAZED BY HIS REFERENCES TO THE IMPORTANCE OF BRITAIN'S COMMONWEALTH INTERESTS IN PARTICULAR. THE BRITISH FORMALLY WITHDREW THEIR OBJECTION TO THE EC-ARAB DIALOGUE AS FORMULATED IN THE MARCH 4 DECISION BUT THE ITALIANS WERE NOT CLEAR AS TO THE THRU BRITISH POSITION. GAJA SAID THAT SCHEEL, WHOULD INITIATE THE SOUNDINGS WITH THE ARABS, STATED HE WOULD NOT BEGIN THIS PROCESS UNTIL HE HAD COMPLETED APPROPRIATE CONSULTATION, THUS, NO IMMEDIATE MOVEMENT IS IN PROSPECT.

4. THE MEETING AT THIS POINT MOVED ON TO THE QUESTION OF CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN THE EC AND THE US AS WELL AS OTHER 3RD PARTIES. THERE WERE ACCORDING TO GAJA TWO MAIN PROPOSALS FOR CONSULTATION. THE GERMAN WHICH IS WELL KNOWN AND THE FRENCH. WE WERE TOLD THAT THE FRENCH HAVE DEVELOPED A "BRILLIANT CONCEPT" THAT A EUROPEAN COMMUNITY DOES NOT EXIST IN A POLITICAL SENSE UNTIL ALL THE MINISTERS REACH A CONSENSUS ON A SPECIFIC ISSUE AT WHICH POINT A EUROPEAN ENTITY COMES INTO EXISTENCE. ACCORDINGLY, TI WOULD BE ABSURD TO CONSULT ABOUT SOMEHTING WHICH DOES NOT EXIST. THEREFORE THE FRENCH PROPOSE THAT CONSULTATION SHOULD TAKE PLACE ONLY AFTER

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THE NINE MINISTERS HAVE REACHED A CONSENSUS. THESE CONSULTATIONS WOULD PRESUMABLY TAKE PLACE THEN AT THE MINISTERIAL LEVEL. THE FRENCH ARE APPARENTLY PREPARED TO ACCEPT THE IDEA THAT THE MEMBER STATES WOULD CONSULT BILATERALLY WITH THE UNITED STATES DURING THE PROCESS OF ARRIVING AT A DECISION.

5. OTHER MEMBERS OF THE GROUP DID NOT ACCEPT THE LOGIC OF THE FRENCH POSITION. HOWEVER, AS REPORTED BY GAJA, THERE WAS INTER-

MINABLE DISCUSSIONS ABOUT (A) THE DEFINITION OF CONSULTATION (B) THE KINDS OF ISSUES APPROPRIATE FOR CONSULTATION (C) THE COUNTRIES WITH WHOM CONSULTATION SHOULD BE PRACTICED.

6. GAJA COMMENTED THAT CHAPTERS COULD BE WRITTEN ON EACH OF THESE SUBJECTS AND HIS DESCRIPTION OF THE DISCUSSIONQ SOUNDED LIKE MEDIEVAL SCHOLASTIC ACADEMICS AT WORK. WHEN WE SUGGESTED THAT PERHAPS WHAT WAS NEEDED WAS THE POLITICAL WILL FOR CONSULTATION, GAJA EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT THIS WILL DOES EXIST. IT SEEMS TO US HOWEVER THAT THE EC-9 ARE FIGHTING THE PROBLEM F THEN INTEND TO DRAFT WHAT SEEMS TO BE A LEGALISTIC TREATY COVERING CONSULTATIONS.

7. ACCORDING TO OUR SOURCE THE NEXT STEP WILL BE FOR THE POLITICAL DIRECTORS TO CONSIDER THE CONSULTATION MATTER ON APRIL 18 AND PREPARE SOMETHING THE MINISTERS CAN CONSIDER AT THEIR NEXT MEETING. APPARENTLY JOBERT WAS AVAILABLE ON MAY 4 (THIS WAS PRIOR TO POMPIDOU'S DEATH) AND TENTATIVE AGREEMENT HAD BEEN REACHED TO HOLD A COUNCIL MEETING THEM.

8. ON THE QUESTION OF THE METHOD AND LEVEL OF NEGOTIATIONS GAJA WAS QUITE EXPLICIT. HE SAID THA ITALIANS FAVOR WIDE RANGING CONSULTATIONS ON A VARIETY OF SUBJECT MATTER AT THE LOWEST (AND EARLIEST) EFFECTIVE LEVEL. HE BELIEVAS THAT THE POLITICAL DIRECTORS ARE TOO SENIOR FOR THIS SINCE ISSUES ARE OFTEN WELL ON THE WAY TO DECISION BY THE TIME THE POLITICAL DIRECTORS DEAL WITH THEM. HE DID NOT OFFER ANY SPECIFIC SUGGESTIONS.

9. IN RESPONSE TO OUR QUESTION ABOUT GENERAL OUTLOOK FOR COMMUNITY IN LIGHT OF RECENT EVENTS INCLUDING DEATH OF POMPIDOU, GAJA THOUGHT THAT PACE OF EUROPEAN ACTIVITY WOULD NECESSARILY SLOW DOWN AND THAT CERTAIN DECISIONS AND DEADLINES WOULD BE HELD IN ABEYANCE. WHEN REMINDED THAT SOME ISSUES CANNOT BE PUT OFF, CONFIDENTIAL

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FOR EXAMPLE IN THE ENERGY FIELD, GAJA CONCURRED, ADDING THAT SUCH WAS PROBABLY GOOD IN THAT IT WOULD COMPEL THE COMMUNITY TO MOVE AHEAD. VOLPE

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